(d) whether Government will take steps to make available the programmes both on medium wave and FM stereo to avoid people buying new sets?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The FM stereo channel at Bangalore is ready and will be commissioned shortly.

(c) 8 FM Radio stations of AIR are already functioning in Karnataka. Apart from this, FM transmitters are being set up at Mysore, Mangalore and Dharwad.

(d) As per the existing policy, whenever the MW Transmitters are replaced by FM Transmitters, programmes are broadcast simultaneously from both the transmitters for the first six months before the MW transmitter is decommissioned. It is not feasible to broadcast stereo programmes on Medium Wave.

Establishment of LPT/VLPT in Himachal Pradesh

846. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for establishment of LPT/VLPT in Himachal Pradesh during the financial year 2001-2002; and

(b) if so, the names of the places?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Six Very Low Power TV transmitters, one each at Awah Devi, Bijli Mahadev, Dalhausi, Jatingiri, Kaja and Nehri are presently under implementation in Himachal Pradesh.